



University
of Exeter



University of Exeter **Retired Staff Association**



**UERSA NEWSLETTER 61
SEPTEMBER 2024**

Cover picture: 'Kalkan' by Gina Woodcraft who came third in the UERSA Joy photography competition.

Letter from David Batty, Chair of UERSA

Dear Friends

Despite the unusually cool, and sometimes wet summer, photographs and reports on the special interest group pages of the UERSA website show that the weather hasn't put off members from enjoying the outdoors. As usual, the Gardens Group has been exploring colourful and, in some cases, historic properties in the county, on two occasions with the close attention of the owner's dog, one of which was expert in catching balls! The Walking Group, for its part, has undertaken a variety of both long and short walks, some more energetic than others including a particularly steep climb up to Nattadon Common that started a recent walk around Chagford – but the views were worth it on a sunny day! Not to be out done, the Wine Group ventured outside for a tasting in the garden of John and Di Jacob, while our table tennis folk are still playing outside at the Heavitree Pleasure Grounds. There is more news from the groups later in this newsletter.

While the interest groups have more activities planned for the coming months, a couple of outings have been on offer for the generality of members. By the time you read this newsletter, it is likely that a visit to the Tudor manor house at Cadhay, just outside Ottery St Mary, will be just about to happen. In total contrast, a small group will be visiting Exeter Airport for a tour on 23 October – apologies to those who have not been able to join the latter, but numbers are restricted by the Airport.

Greater numbers took up the opportunity to attend our traditional summer party, held at the Exeter Cricket Club pavilion on 27 June under, thankfully, sunny skies. Around 50 of us enjoyed the usual refreshments of sandwiches and scones – we must once more thank Steph from the neighbouring Squash Club for the high standard of her catering. And folk were again generous in supporting the retiring collection in aid of a local charity, in this instance £243 for Turntable Furniture.

Two more dates for your diaries. Our AGM will be held on Thursday 17 October at 2.30 pm at the Cricket Club Pavilion and, as part of the proceedings, we shall welcome well-known local historian, Dr Todd Gray to talk about his new book, *Voices of Empire in Exeter*. And yes, Christmas is still a long way off, but please note that the UERSA Christmas lunch at the Devon Hotel is scheduled for Monday 9 December. The organisation of the latter event is in the capable hands of Judy Mead. Further details about both the AGM and the Christmas lunch will be circulated in due course.

I do hope to see many of you at some or all of these events.

David Batty

UERSA News

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Wojtek Krzanowski has for many years served as UERSA's Membership Secretary but has decided that now is the time to step down from the role. We are all very grateful for his sterling work in keeping our membership records, which include the special interest group listings, in such good order. We are delighted that Sue Milward has agreed to succeed Wojtek in the role and it will be her who will be contacting us shortly about the renewal of our memberships for the year ahead.

JOIN THE COMMITTEE!

Like all voluntary organisations, UERSA benefits from having new blood joining its Executive Committee from time to time to bring fresh ideas on the sorts of activities that our members might enjoy and support. There are just four Committee meetings a year, normally no more than an hour in length and usually following one of our monthly coffee mornings, so attendance isn't particularly arduous! If you think you can help, do please contact the Committee Chair, David Batty (D.F.Batty@exeter.ac.uk) or its Secretary, Julie Orr (julie.orr@blueyonder.co.uk).

Friends and colleagues who have recently passed away

Sadly we have to report the death, unexpectedly after a short illness, on 12 September of Reinhard Hartmann, a long-time member and supporter of UERSA. (Reinhard was until last year an active member of the Table Tennis Group.) Reinhard was a noted lexicographer and applied linguist, and his time at the University saw him as Head of the Department of Applied Linguistics and Director of the Dictionary Research Centre. His funeral will be held at the Exeter Crematorium on Tuesday 8 October at 10.30 am.

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Recent events

COFFEE MORNINGS

Our monthly coffee mornings continue at the pavilion of Exeter Cricket Club. Dates and times will be announced by email.

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A roman walks into a cafe, holds up 2 fingers and gets 5 coffees.

RESTAURANT GROUP

In July some of the Restaurant group members had an enjoyable lunch at Belluno, the Italian restaurant at Newton St Cyres.

In August a small group met for coffee and some stayed for lunch at Harcombe House near Exeter racecourse which is run by the Firefighters Charity. The charity provides a rest and recuperation home and has a small cafe which is open to the public and is in a lovely setting with beautiful views.

A lunch has been planned for the 25th September at the New Inn in Sampford Courtney.

We are dependent on more members being able to help organise future events. With a variety of contributors we are then able to discover new interesting venues around the area.

Frankie Peroni

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Jean-Paul Sartre is sitting at a French cafe, revising his draft of Being and Nothingness.

He says to the waitress, "I'd like a cup of coffee, please, with no cream." The waitress replies, "I'm sorry, Monsieur, but we're out of cream. How about with no milk?"

GARDENS GROUP

It's been a challenging year weather wise but we've managed all bar one visit, that was to Knightshayes in April.

Dartington Hall and Gardens was a very good visit benefitting too from a very knowledgeable guide.





Old Glebe was a very friendly visit by a very welcoming hostess who took us round the huge garden in inclement conditions and then provided an excellent tea.



Blackbury Honey Farm was a complete contrast but very enjoyable with tempting honey products to purchase.





TABLE TENNIS GROUP

The table tennis group has been meeting outside in Heavitree Pleasure Grounds for the Summer months, mainly weekly and dependent on the weather, which fortunately has been mainly dry.

We have had good competitive games, sustained by coffee from the nearby cafe. From October, we will be playing indoors at the University Sports Hall during the Winter months.

If anyone is interested in joining the group, please contact Anne Dinan (e.a.dinan@exeter.ac.uk) to be notified of the dates.

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I couldn't figure out why the table tennis ball kept getting larger.

Then it hit me.



Plant World does what it says on the tin, attempts to plant according to different continents. A wonderfully clear day affording great views. All visits accompanied by the all important tea and lots of friendly chat.

A very friendly group, do join us.

Anne Mayes

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I told my wife that what she's wearing isn't appropriate for gardening. But...she's digging in her heels.

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

The photography group has now moved from 'seasonal' photo submissions to specific topics. The first topic was 'Joy' for which we received 15 amazing pictures which were circulated to members of the photography group and other contributors. 8 people voted and the results are as follows:

Third place with 10 points: 'Kalkan' by Gina Woodcraft. Prize £10 book token. Gina's photo has been used as the cover photo of this newsletter.

Joint first place with 27 points each:

'Dancing' by Paul Sandy.



and 'Mime' by Deborah Welland



Prize £25 book token each.

Prizes have been kindly provided by UERSA.

All UERSA members are invited to join in the 'GARDEN FENCES' competition.

Please send one or two photos to me (milwardsue@gmail.com) to arrive no later than 30 November. Simple rules as before are:

- Submit one or two 'Garden Fences' photos taken between now and 30 November
- Photos will be judged in our usual way by photo group members and contributors
- The top 3 photographers will receive book tokens

Looking forward to receiving your contributions!

Sue Milward

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Bakeries often ask me to pose for promotional photos with their products. Apparently I'm an excellent roll model

WALKING GROUP

Our Spring programme covers April, May and June. We had a couple of cancellations because of the weather but we also had some beautiful walks. In the Spring, bluebells are a must and our beautiful walk East of Sidbury, ticked that box!



Woodbury Common afforded those keen to discover the bugs and butterflies a great day out - apparently this is the Common Carder Bee on a yellow iris seen on Woodbury Common.



A rather special day out, although at quite a distance, involved two shorter walks - one in the morning and the other in the afternoon - at Brean Down

and Berrow Beach. There was much to see and the walks offered wonderful views, a historical wreck on the beach, a beautiful Church and incredible wild flowers.

Firstly a special and rare Rock Rose



The wreck on the beach of the SS Nornen



We have a full programme of walks for each season - please join us.

Judy and Jan

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What do you call 100 rabbits walking backwards?

A receding hare..

WINE GROUP

Austrian wines have struggled in this country since the antifreeze scandal of the 1980's so I guided the group through some modern Austrian wines in June. Gruner Veltliner is a well known and iconic white wine grape from Austria. Two were tasted and were well received by the group being fresh and fruity. The surprise for the evening were the reds particularly the Zweigelt. Few members had tasted any Austrian reds, and all were impressed with the light red fruit flavours ideal for a summer red.

In July we had our summer get together in our garden. The weather was kind to us and we had an enjoyable convivial evening sampling more Austrian wines and a sparkling S African wine. I introduced the group to Muscat de Asti a sweet white which goes well with summer desserts.

New members are always welcome no knowledge of wine required just a like of wine and a willingness to try different wines. The next tasting will be on October 17th at St Davids Church Exeter.

John Jacob

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To me, "drink responsibly" means don't spill it.

CINEMA GROUP

Any member of the group can suggest a film on a particular date (generally at the Picture House) and invite others to reply to the group email if they intend to be there.

We usually meet for tea or coffee beforehand and may grab a quick word afterwards to exchange views about the film.

Silver Screen viewings on Thursdays are cheaper than the usual rate and there is a free cup of tea or coffee once you have your ticket.

See the UERSA website:

<https://groups.exeter.ac.uk/uersa/sig-cin.html>

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My favourite film is The Hunchback of Notre Dame

I love a protagonist with a twisted back story

FROM THE UNIVERSITY NEWSLETTER

Top 10 in the world for the THE Impact Rankings 2024



It was announced last week that we have been ranked 10th in the world in The Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2024. These rankings aim to measure our commitment to addressing the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and reflect the hard work by colleagues and students to improve sustainability across the institution, and the impact our academic activity is having in the wider world. We have also maintained our ranking of first in the world for our pioneering research, action and commitment towards clean water and sanitation, achieved sixth in the world for our innovative research, education and support for aquatic ecosystems, and seventh in the world for SDG12: Consumption and Production, which measures the efficient use of resources and minimising waste and consumption, especially where resources are not renewable. We also saw outstanding results for our research and commitment to SDG 2: Zero Hunger where we came 19th, and SDG 13: Climate Action, where we came 12th in the world. These results are an incredible recognition of our progress

towards meeting our Strategy 2030 mission of creating a greener, healthier and fairer world; well done to all colleagues and students involved in these fantastic achievements.

Exeter secures global 150 place in influential rankings



We have been ranked in the global top 150, as well as 13th in the UK and 43rd in Europe, in the latest influential rankings; The U.S. News and World Report Best Global Universities. The ranking assesses the world's top 2,250 universities across a range of measures focusing on academic research performance and reputation. We saw strong performances in several assessment categories, including the percentage of the most highly cited papers and nine of our subjects placed in the top 100 globally.

Business School retains 'triple crown' accreditation



Our Business School has retained its 'triple crown' status after its AACSB accreditation was extended for a further six years. AACSB accreditation is recognised worldwide as a standard of excellence in business education and provides assurance of the quality of the Business School's governance, processes, teaching and research. The outcome means that the Business School remains accredited by all three of the largest and most influential accreditation bodies and this 'triple crown' status is held by less than 1% of all business schools globally. Congratulations to all our colleagues at the Business School involved in the accreditation process.

Gold award for Armed Forces Covenant



We are proud to announce that we have been awarded the prestigious gold award in the Armed Forces Covenant Employer Recognition Scheme Gold Awards in recognition of

our support and ongoing commitment to the Armed Forces community. Our Vice-Chancellor, Professor Lisa Roberts said: "The University is a proud signatory of the Armed Forces Covenant and is committed to supporting service people who are part of our University and region. We recognise the skills, knowledge and experience that veterans, reservists and Cadet Force Adult Volunteers bring to our organisation, whether as colleagues or students. We also recognise the sacrifices made by service families while supporting their loved ones through military service. Our Armed Forces are a force for good in a changing world, and the University's support for service people is a significant part of our ambition to help secure a fairer, safer, and more inclusive society for all. Led by our AFC Advocacy Group and Community Network the University welcomes service people to our community and will make continued efforts to extend this network of support throughout our region."

'We Are The Possible' wins international award



We are proud to announce that 'We Are The Possible' has won a Falling Walls Engage 2024 award. The project was selected as a global winner in the category of 'Science Engagement' with

a special focus on climate change and adaptation. Cecilia Manosa Nyblon, Director of We Are the Possible, has been invited to Berlin by the Falling Walls Foundation (a not-for-profit organisation in Germany connecting science, business, and society) to pitch at Science Summit 2024. We Are The Possible has brought together hundreds of people from the UK and UAE to reflect upon the plight of our planet and deliver a creative and inspiring response to catalyse climate actions and solutions. Huge congratulations to all involved.

Congratulations to our honorary graduates



As well as welcoming the Class of 2024 graduands to the alumni community, we were delighted to celebrate, and recognise, several individuals who were awarded an honorary degree this summer. Memorable speeches came from comedian Josh Widdecombe, musical super star and alumnus Will Young, mental health campaigner and alumnus Dr Alex George, Founder of The Lions Barber Collective Tom Chapman and actress Cush Jumbo. We were even lucky enough to have Blur frontman Damon Albarn accept an honour. We had 12 honorary graduates in total accepting awards.

Chancellor appointed as Prime Minister's Adviser



We're excited to inform you that our Chancellor, Sir Michael Barber, has been appointed as the Prime Minister's Adviser on Effective Delivery. Michael will support the Prime Minister in driving forward the delivery of the five national missions, which will include coordinating ambitious, measurable, long-term objectives that deliver change across the UK. It's a part-time, unpaid role and is a Direct Ministerial appointment, which he will take up in an initial 12-month period, starting in September 2024. Michael said: "It is an honour to be asked to take on this role. The five missions are vital to the future of the country, and I look forward to assisting the Prime Minister with their delivery".

Newsletter Quiz:

Purely for fun here is a general knowledge quiz focusing on Autumn - answers are on the last page of the newsletter.

1. What is Autumn known as in North America?
2. Which English Romantic poet composed "To Autumn" after a walk near Winchester one autumnal evening?
3. Pumpkin fragments dated between 7,000 and 5,500 BC have been found in which country: China, Egypt, Germany or Mexico?
4. Who did Autumn Kelly marry in May 2008?
5. Bonfire Night takes place every November but in which year did Guy Fawkes try to blow up Parliament?
6. And which king did Mr Fawkes try to blow up?
7. What are hedgehogs' spines or quills made from?
8. With around 400 players participating, what are the WCC, which are held annually on the second Sunday in October in Northamptonshire?
9. In Australia, Autumn begins in which month?
10. In 2009, Autumn was the 81st most popular name for girls born in which country?
11. Name the pigment which trees stop producing, thus causing leaves to lose their green colour?
12. Pheasant shooting season starts at the beginning of which month?
13. Which federal holiday in the United States is often said to mark the end of summer and the start of autumn?
14. In Britain, the autumn internationals or November internationals take part in which sport?
15. SAD is sometimes known as Autumnal depression, what do the initials in SAD stand for?
16. The Oktoberfest is held annually in which German city?
17. Which celebration is influenced by the Celtic autumn festival, Samhain?

Future events:

UERSA VISIT TO EXETER AIRPORT - WEDNESDAY 23 OCTOBER 2024



Here's a chance for a small number of UERSA members to take a tour of Exeter Airport. The visit on Wednesday 23 October at 10.30 am will take about an hour and a half. Starting with an overview of the Airport in the Board Room over a cup of coffee, the group will then walk over to the main terminal where the Passenger Services Team will give a short introduction to what their roles entail. This is followed by a visit to the Fire Station and then back to Air Traffic Control for a brief visit depending on traffic levels.

If you wish to join the visit please see David Batty's email sent on September the 14th.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2024

Following last year's successful event we have organised another Christmas lunch at the Devon Hotel in the Regency Room on Monday 9th December. We have been able to hold the price for the last two years but inevitably there will be a small increase in cost this year to £35 per person. However, I hope you will agree that this is still excellent value as it will include a welcome drink, a 3 course lunch with wine and coffee. The wine (or soft drinks) with the meal will be subsidised by UERSA.

I hope that many of you will join this festive event and meet up with old friends and new. I will be sending out further details including timings and menu choices in October.

Judy Mead

The weekly programme of Exeter Forum talks for September through December 2024.

Meetings take place in the Mint Methodist Church, Fore Street, Exeter, EX4 3AT on Wednesday mornings. The talks start at 10:45am, while coffee is available from 10:15am. Descriptions of talks and speakers also appear on the Exeter Forum website www.exeterforum.org, and in the weekly newsletter sent to Forum members and to visitors who wish to be so notified. Visitors are welcome subject to a small charge for each talk. Late programme changes will be shown on the Exeter Forum website.

Wednesday 25 September

Lucilla Phelps

In the footsteps of Shackleton

Professional photographer Lucilla will make a welcome return to the Exeter Forum to talk about her photographic journey to the Antarctic following the route of the Sir Ernest Shackleton's expedition. She will illustrate her talk with amazing images, recreating scenes from the original expedition.

Wednesday 2 October

Rebekah Pearson

Devon Land Girls – their lives and experiences

Rebekah's talk will focus on the experiences of the Land Girls who worked on farms in the Second World War. She will draw on her research tracking down and recording the experiences of some of the 1700 Land Girls from Devon.

Wednesday 9 October

Mike Richards

Being an operational Detective and Traffic Policeman

Mike will take us on a journey to see the real world of Detectives and Traffic Policemen, drawing on his own experiences of a career in Devon.

Wednesday 16 October

John Bryant

Feeding the nine billion – crops, genes and climate change

John will look at the complex issues associated with population growth as the planet approaches 9 billion inhabitants. His talk will cover the related issues of food supply, climate change and genes.

Wednesday 23 October

Geoff Pettinger

Sir Goldsworth Gurney – Gentleman Scientist

This talk will look at West Country inventor, engineer and gentleman scientist Sir Goldsworth Gurney and will show how he amazed the Victorians with his innovative steam powered forms of transport, and new methods for lighting and heating. A native of Devon, he built a house in Bude which used radical new construction methods that can be still seen today

Wednesday 30 October**Major Robert Elliott****The modern role of the Salvation Army**

As a follow up to talks on the history of the Salvation Army in Exeter, Major Robert Elliott will illustrate the roles of the Salvation Army today, and their important work in Devon and further afield.

Wednesday 6 November**John Ellis****They Built Silent Cities**

To coincide with Remembrance week, amateur historian John's talk will look at how the War cemeteries were created across the Western Front to commemorate the fallen. He will draw on his experiences visiting over 130 sites and tell the often forgotten story about how these important and lasting memorials were established.

Wednesday 13 November**Chris Wiseman****My Flying Experiences – a personal story**

Chris will present a unique journey looking at the various types of different aircraft he has had the privilege to fly from aged 13 through to the present-day including stories of Air Cadet days, obtaining a Gliding licence, training with Search and Rescue helicopter units, Aerobatic Teams and various warbirds. This is a follow up to his previous talk on RAF Exeter.

Wednesday 20 November**Jonathan Turner****The life, times, and mysterious death of Devon sailor Captain John Jellard**

Captain John Jellard left a detailed diary. Jonathan's talk will show the sometimes terrifying world of a Devon sailor in the days of tall ships. John Jellard left Devon for Newfoundland in about 1827. He returned to Liverpool in 1845 to work for his brother-in-law Joseph Avery, wine merchant. They invested in a state-of-the art barque of 500 tonnes built in Shaldon. John sailed it round the world in 1857 before dying mysteriously in New Zealand in 1860.

Wednesday 27 November**Pete Wade****The story of the Newton Abbot Spitfire**

In 1940, councils, businesses, voluntary organisations and individuals were encouraged by the Government to raise funds to build Spitfires. This "home front" initiative captured the public's imagination and was amazingly successful. This is the story of one Spitfire, built with funds raised in Newton Abbot, and how this extraordinary fundraising came about.

Wednesday 4 December**Hedley Saunders****Normandy and the Waterways of Northern France by Yacht**

Retired dentist, RNLI fundraiser and avid sailor Hedley Saunders will take us on an aquatic journey in his 30-foot Yacht, from Devon to the waterways of Northern France in this anniversary year of D-Day. Places visited on this cruise included Pegasus Bridge with its Exeter connections, Caen, Arromanches, and Utah beach

Wednesday 11 December**Young musicians from Exeter****A Celebration of Christmas Music and Songs**

Young singers from a local school will present a programme of seasonal music.

Wednesday 18 December

To be confirmed Christmas-related event - details to follow

Wednesday 1 January 2025

No meeting Christmas break

Wednesday 8 January 2025

Exeter Forum restarts after Christmas break. Details later

Newsletter Quiz Answers:

1. The fall
2. John Keats
3. Mexico
4. Peter Phillips (grandson of Queen Elizabeth II)
5. 1605
6. James I
7. Keratin
8. World Conker Championships
9. March
10. United States
11. Chlorophyll
12. October (October 1)
13. Labor Day (first Monday in September)
14. Rugby union
15. Seasonal affective disorder
16. Munich
17. Halloween